



Carnegie Carnegie

A photograph of a library interior. In the foreground, a whiteboard with a wooden frame has the text "Welcome to the Carnegie Carnegie!" written in blue marker, surrounded by several blue stars. To the right of the whiteboard are two potted plants on a glass shelf. Below the plants is a framed picture of a row of colorful books. In the background, there are more bookshelves and a person standing near a counter.

Welcome to
the Carnegie Carnegie!

Something for everyone!

IN THIS ISSUE...

- ...a fond farewell to Diane Klinefelter
- ...a warm welcome to Bri Grygo + a teen program update
- ...a new performance series for kids and families *and lots more!*

OUR STAFF

Katie Byerly, *Public Services Manager*
Cullen Cleary, *Circulation Clerk*
Denise Edeburn, *Finance Manager*
Walker Evans, *Library Director*
Marlee Gallagher, *Executive Director*
Jon-Erik Gilot, *Espy Post Curator*
Bri Grygo, *Youth Library Assistant*
RJ Kozain, *Events & Technical Coordinator*
Heidi Matthews, *Music Hall Director*
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LIBRARY HOURS

Mon 12-7PM
Tue-Thu: 10AM-7PM
Fri-Sat: 10AM-5PM
Sun: Closed

CONTACT US

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& Music Hall
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Carnegie, PA 15106

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On the cover: *Welcome to the Carnegie Carnegie*

Photography by Greg Sciulli
Printed at Raff Printing Inc.

Dear friends & neighbors,

As we wrap up another great year at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall, we're reflecting on what 2025 has been all about — fostering relationships, giving generously, and, above all, building connections. None of this would be possible without *you* — our community members and Carnegie supporters. *Thank you for being an essential part of our story.*

We're also celebrating a major recent achievement: our most successful *Love Your Library* campaign yet! Together, we raised over \$30,000 in September. These funds will be matched by two local foundations, ensuring each donation from our community makes an even bigger impact in helping us grow our programs, complete more projects, and continue advancing our mission.

One upcoming project we're excited about is the creation of a digital archive of our extensive collection of newspapers dating back to the late 1800s — over a century of stories of our community, our neighbors, our joys and struggles. In partnership with the Historical Society of Carnegie, we are thrilled to now have the resources to preserve these stories and make them more accessible for all.

We've been deeply moved by the community's enthusiasm for this particular project — from selecting specific years of microfilm to sponsor to memorializing loved ones who worked for the paper years ago or who simply loved to read. It's a full circle moment and a beautiful reminder of how stories, and ultimately projects like this one, connect us to one another.

We hope to keep this momentum going through the end of the year as we have many more projects, ideas, and goals for 2026. We have plans for new teen programs, a performance series for kids and families, historic artifact preservation in the Espy Post, continued building improvements, and lots more — *all made possible by your support and generosity.*

And speaking of 2026, it will be a big year for us as we'll be celebrating our 125th birthday! We can't wait to celebrate this milestone with a series of events and activities throughout the year. Stay tuned for more details about this in the coming months.

Until then, we look forward to a joyful season of building community, sharing stories, and practicing gratitude. *We hope to see you here soon!*

Marlee Gallagher
Executive Director

Michael Hatcher
President, Board of Trustees

A Fond Farewell

-Jon-Erik Gilot, Espy Post Curator

The Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall is blessed with wonderful staff and a dedicated cadre of volunteers, many of whom spend years, and in some cases decades, moving our building and our organization forward. Many have left indelible fingerprints on our building, both inside and out. Few have amassed a legacy like former longtime library director and Espy Post curator, **Diane Klinefelter**.

Diane's contributions to ACFL&MH stretch back to late 2006 when she was hired as library director. Diane — a librarian, registered genealogist, and published Civil War historian — thought the job description was 'practically perfect' for her skillset. She was right. During her tenure, Diane worked hand-in-hand with former executive director Maggie Forbes in a sweeping restoration of the building and grounds as well as expanding programming and developing the Library's collection.

The restoration of the Captain Thomas Espy Grand Army of the Republic Post stands as Diane's most recognizable achievement. Celebrated today as perhaps the most intact surviving example of a Grand Army of the Republic post, the 2010 restoration ensured the preservation of the veritable Civil War time capsule and the priceless artifacts it holds. In doing so, the reopening of the Espy Post elevated ACFL&MH on an international level, with Associated Press stories garnering interest around the globe.

Not content to rest on her laurels, Diane developed both monthly and annual Civil War programming that continues to draw hundreds of history enthusiasts to our hilltop. Now in its 11th year, the 2nd Saturday Civil War Series hosts authors and public historians for free public lectures on a variety of Civil War topics. In 2015, Diane began a one-day Civil War symposium at ACFL&MH, an event that has since grown to two days and recently attracted more than 200 attendees from 14 states and Canada.

Diane also built the largest collection of Civil War titles found in any library in Allegheny County, and I'd contend the largest of any comparable library. Historians and authors from western Pennsylvania and beyond have benefitted from the thousands of volumes and the major research sets that Diane built, and on which we continue to build each month.

Building Connections

FALL TEEN PROGRAMMING UPDATE & WELCOME TO BRI GRYGGO!

-Mikayla Wobrak, Children's Librarian

When I started working as the Carnegie Carnegie's Children's Librarian in April 2024, I knew that one of my personal goals would be to build up our programs and services to teens. Teens tend to be an underserved and misunderstood group, not just in library services, but in our society as a whole. They are going through a transitional and often tumultuous time in their lives, one that has a profound impact on the development of their identity and self-concept.

And coming of age during a pandemic has only made it all the more tumultuous: in 2023, the U.S. Surgeon General



In retirement, Diane has been a regular and reliable Espy Post docent, showcasing our national treasure Civil War room to school groups, community organizations, and passersby. She has also worked with patrons in researching their family genealogy, with a special emphasis (of course) on their Civil War ancestors.

For myself, Diane has been a steadfast mentor, colleague, and friend. I have regularly called on her sage advice and counsel, knowing that I cannot fill her shoes, but rather walk in her footsteps. Now, as Diane moves south to be closer to her children and grandchildren, on behalf of all of us at the ACFL&MH, I wish Diane a fond farewell.

declared loneliness to be an epidemic and a public health risk to Americans of all ages, and according to the World Health Organization, teens face one of the highest rates of loneliness, with 1 in 5 teens between the ages of 13 and 17 reporting experiencing loneliness and lack of connection among their peers.

While circulating books and championing literacy will always be a fundamental mission of libraries, one of the less quantifiable yet no less important roles that we serve in our community is to provide a safe space, a refuge, to youth.

"Building Connections" continues on pg. 6.

Library Programs Build Connections & Friendships

-Walker Evans, Library Director

While I'll admit to being a bit of an introvert (okay, maybe more than a bit), nevertheless I have an immense soft spot for seeing people come together. The possibility of connection between people can seem so unlikely on the surface... we're each a lonely brain stuck in separate skulls, doing our best to understand others and make ourselves understood. The richness of language is the result of countless generations of early humans making sounds with their bodies and converging on a commonly-accepted meaning. Our ability to communicate, empathize, and build things together are no accident — they're at the core of our success as a species, but think of what it's taken to reach this place! A meeting of minds is like a minor miracle.

That's why some of my favorite moments center on the moments when I can see connections emerging between the folks who use the Library. I've been fortunate to have a front-row seat to a wonderful example of this, in the form of our Meditate Together group, now in its fifth year. As this group's facilitator, I've seen our discussions of mindfulness lead to moments of profundity and vulnerability, and I've been delighted to learn that some group members have started to meet for lunch outside of our official sessions. Meditation and mindfulness can be such inwardly-focused pursuits, but sharing these experiences with one another can lead to a deeper understanding of both others and the self.

A pair of new monthly book clubs also aim to bring their participants together. Our "Paperback Platoon" group, led by veteran services employee Annie Dayich, invites women veterans and military family members to connect over a shared love of reading. Forming close connections can be a challenge for people who have experienced the stresses and traumas of military deployment; this group is one way we can help create opportunities for new friendships to

bloom. Likewise, our new historical fiction book club brings readers together through engagement with other eras and places: a shared experience that binds the participants together.

But the group that's become our best example of connection through Library programming has to be the Carnegie Crafters, a fiber arts group for knitters and crocheters founded by Gina Wyrick in early 2023. Since their inception, the Crafters have grown into a robust and — if you'll pardon the expression — close-knit group of creative folks who teach and learn from one another, support each other's work, and share new ideas and suggestions. Over the past year, the Crafters have begun holding a series they call "Craft Night at the Movies" — special screenings of '80s and '90s classics like *The Princess Bride* and *Ten Things I Hate About You* — the catch is that the lights are left on so that everyone can craft while they watch! Even non-crafters are welcome to attend a Craft Night at the Movies... although they may end up leaving with a new hobby.

We've all seen editorials lamenting the lack of connection in our society. A fractured media landscape and political polarization can make it feel like a lost cause to even try. As part of our mission to build community, the Library & Music Hall remains committed to creating fertile ground for interpersonal connections to thrive. When we make efforts to know and engage with our neighbors, our whole community grows stronger.



Photo courtesy of Gina Wyrick/Carnegie Crafters

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT Takes Root

-Jackson Keeney, Life Scout of Troop 148

If it's honesty you're looking for, here's the truth: when I approached the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall about doing my Eagle Scout project for them, I never saw this project becoming so extensive. Not only did this project give me a more energy-filled and exciting summer than I could have ever expected, it offered me a chance to learn about plants native to the Western Pennsylvania area, to experience broadcast radio, and, most importantly, gave me an opportunity to promote both Scouting and our environment. I never could have accomplished this on my own. I learned that with friends, skills, and a little bit of luck, goals can be achieved.

This process began with an email (let's be honest, what doesn't anymore?) I sent to the Library administrators, asking if they would be willing to have an Eagle Scout project completed on the Library's grounds. I wanted to do my project for the Library because spending time at the Library had been an important part of my childhood. Almost immediately, I was offered a meeting with the administration, where we discussed potential projects. In reality, we only needed one idea: the native plant garden. I was introduced to community member Chris Litherland at a following meeting, where we selected the location of the garden. I'm still quite surprised and thankful for where I was given permission to plant in the garden. Over the next few months, we kept meeting, doing research, filling out paperwork, and applying for a grant from the Gismondi Foundation. Chris and I were soon buying plants, soil, mulch, and other supplies for the big day, which was eventually scheduled for May 10th.

The day arrived and we got straight to work. Our first order of business was to remove the tree stump, signpost, and tall grass sections out of the area. We finished this and began

to take off the layer of grass in the area; this was completed in two methods, first by scraping the grass off, and secondly rototilling the area. Then, we threw the salvageable dirt back into the garden and added the purchased soil and mulch, followed by our plants. Chris returned independently later in the day to add additional plants. I can't thank him enough for his help with both the plants and work, and I am glad to have met him. In total, we had 15 people working on the 10th, most of them from my Scout troop (Troop 148 of Crafton if you or someone you know is interested). Chris joined us at Beechwood Farms, home of the Audubon Society of Western PA the following day, where we bought even more plants (who knew so many plants were needed for such a small garden?).

By May 15th, all of the garden was planted. We had a total of 89 plants of 40 species. But the story doesn't end here. I tasked my grandfather and his woodshop friends from Highpointe at Rebecca with making a sign out of beautiful cedar wood. Once the sign was at the Library, it was easy to put it in and it now had information about the plants on it.

On August 2nd, library director Walker Evans, Chris, and I appeared on the Saturday Light Brigade radio show, which was completely unexpected on my end. We officially handed off the garden to the Library on August 23rd. We plan to attach a plaque to the back of the sign, denoting this as my Eagle Scout project, and putting the finishing cap on the whole deal. I would like to thank everyone involved: my loving family, my friends, my troop, the Gismondi Foundation, and the incredible staff at the Library for all their help. I also thank you, the reader, for taking the time to listen to an inexperienced writer discuss his Eagle Scout project.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CARNEGIE ARTISTS SHOWCASE: For the first two weeks of August, a wide-ranging collection of works from 11 Carnegie artists graced our Studio. Visitors viewed conventional paintings, works of illustration, sculpture, Christian icons, and pop culture data visualizations, demonstrating our community's eclectic creative spirit. *Many thanks to Bob Podurciel for his invaluable help organizing this event!*

CARNEGIE CELEBRATES JUNETEENTH: For the second year, the Library partnered with Carnegie's Second Baptist Church and the Carlynton High School Black Student Union for a celebration of freedom for Black

Americans: Juneteenth! The weather was beautiful, the food (from Carmi Soul Food) was delectable, and Carnegieans of every age and background turned up to join us. Pitt professor Alonna Carter-Donaldson shared a fascinating talk about the history of Juneteenth in Western Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh area, and music and games rounded out the afternoon. *We look forward to continuing this tradition next June!*



“Building Connections” continued from pg. 3.

Libraries represent a “third place” in people’s lives — that is, somewhere that is not one’s home nor school or work, where they spend most of their time. It is an open and welcoming public space where people can go to relax, socialize with familiar faces, and foster community and creativity. Few of these spaces exist today, especially for young people, and it is especially important to me that the Library is a place where young people can find a sense of belonging and connection, explore their interests, and feel comfortable expressing themselves.

Earlier this year, we were incredibly fortunate to receive a grant from the McElhattan Foundation to support our work in expanding our programs and services to teens in the Carnegie community. Our goal for this year is to build up a robust calendar of after-school programming as well as create a designated space for teens within the Library, somewhere that teens can call their own.

Excitingly, this grant has also allowed us to add a part-time Youth Library Assistant to our small but mighty Library staff; in fact, the addition of this role has doubled the size of our little Youth Services department!

Bri Grygo officially started in the Youth Library Assistant role in August, and I think I can speak for all of us on the staff when I say that we are so pleased to have her on the team. And thank goodness the feeling is mutual — when asked about her experience at the Library thus far, Bri said:

“I am so grateful to call this library my workplace. I love everything it has to offer: the highly spirited teen programs, the warm atmosphere, the extensive picture book collection, and so much more.”

Bri brings a warm and welcoming presence to the Library, a creative mind, and a fascinating expertise in gardening and horticulture! Though the Carnegie Carnegie is the first library where Bri has worked, her experience working with youth in an educational setting really shines through in all of her interactions with the teens here.

In just the few short weeks since Bri started, she and I have started collaborating to plan some exciting new things for the fall: with input from the hardworking teens of our Teen Library Council, we are in the process of designing and developing both an indoor and outdoor space for teens, a seasonal teen-led Halloween party, and numerous other programs that teens can participate in each week.

We plan to add further programming on different days of the week as we get settled, so don’t forget to check out our



WELCOME BRI!

programming calendar at acfree.librarycalendar.com for updates and new programs throughout the fall.

We urge you to come check out some of these new fall programs, and if you see Bri hanging around the children’s section, don’t forget to say hi and give her a warm welcome! If you want to get to know her, you should ask her about her love of winter birding, cozy crafting, or which reality show she is enjoying at the moment.

FALL 2025 TEEN PROGRAMS

All teen programs are designated for youth ages 10-18.

LEGO Club | Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30PM *Drop in and express your creativity with LEGO creations!*

Anime Club | 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 3:30PM *Join us to watch anime, draw together, and enjoy taste-testing Japanese snacks!*

Teen Game Time | 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 3:30 PM *Play our Nintendo Switch, bring your own console, or try out one of our board games!*

Dungeons & Dragons: One-Shots | To Be Announced *Roll for adventure! Join our fearless volunteer Dungeon Master, Alex, for a variety of D&D one-shots and short campaigns. No experience necessary. Join our mailing list to get advance updates and register for campaigns: bit.ly/acft-teen-dnd-list.*

For more teen programs, check out our Upcoming Events on the next page or visit CarnegieCarnegie.org.

The Power of Live Performance for Kids & Families

-Heidi Matthews, Music Hall Director

There’s magic that happens when the lights dim, the performers step onto the stage, and the first notes of music or words of a story fill the room. Live performance is an experience unlike any other, and it can be especially transformative for kids.

In a world where so much of our entertainment is streamed, recorded, and consumed on personal devices, the immediacy of live performance offers a shared moment of connection. Children, in particular, benefit from the chance to see, hear, and feel the arts up close. And the lasting effects reach far beyond a single afternoon of music, dance, or storytelling.

When you experience live music or theater, you’re not just a passive observer, you’re an active participant. Hearing a cellist create rich, resonant sounds or seeing a dancer tell a story through movement opens the door to curiosity and exploration. *“How did the instrument make that sound?” “Could I try dancing like that?”* Live performance demonstrates creative expression in real time, sparking inspiration that recorded media can’t fully replicate.

Live performance also asks kids to practice focus and attentiveness. Following along means listening with care and watching with focus as the story gradually unfolds. In doing so, they learn patience and presence. Just as importantly, live performance builds empathy. Watching performers express joy, sorrow, humor, or struggle helps kids begin to understand emotions in others as well as in themselves. That lesson in compassion and perspective is one of the most enduring gifts the arts can offer.

For families, attending live performances creates shared memories. Parents and children experience the same sights and sounds together, and conversations continue after the final bow. *“What did you like best?” “How did it make you feel?”* These simple reflections on a shared experience strengthen family conversations and keep the experience alive after the curtain falls.



MUSIC HALL RESTORATION UPDATE

We are thrilled to share that the Music Hall is now air conditioned! During the spring and summer, we closed the Hall to install a new HVAC system — a major step forward in our restoration project. The new system improves air quality and comfort, bringing the Hall up to modern standards for theater venues. With better ventilation and air purification, audiences and performers alike can enjoy a healthier, more comfortable experience — all without impacting the architectural beauty and cultural significance of the space. Since reopening, we have already held several events in the space and look forward to a full slate of programs in the Hall through the end of the year.



In a community setting, live performance helps knit families together with neighbors and friends. Sitting side by side in a welcoming space like our Library & Music Hall, audiences become part of something larger than themselves. The arts remind us that, though these values may be overlooked at times, we can still connect to a community that continues to honor creativity, curiosity, and joy. That’s why we’re excited to share plans for a new kids and family performance series, launching in the summer of 2026. These programs will take place in our Studio, an intimate setting designed to bring audiences closer to the performers and foster more engagement. From music to dance to interactive storytelling, each event will highlight the magic of live performance in a way that invites kids not just to watch, but to join in.

As we look toward building this series, we’re thrilled to be working with local ensembles and performers such as Cello Fury, Resonance Works, Shana Simmons Dance, and others, whose artistry and innovation showcase the creativity, accessibility, and excellence alive in the Pittsburgh area. Together, we envision a series that brings families into the heart of live performance, creating experiences that are joyful, meaningful, and lasting.

Because when a child discovers the power of live performance, they don’t just become an audience member, they become part of a story that will carry with them for years to come.

 *Library: Adults*

MEEPLE MEET-UP: EURO-GAMING FOR ADULTS

Do you like Terraforming Mars? Settlers of Catan? Agricola? Ark Nova? Or other “Euro” or Euro-flavored strategy games with wooden meeples, worker placement, tableau building, and so forth? Come to the Library for an afternoon of board gaming! For gamers 18+.

- » **OCT 25** 12-4PM
- » **NOV 22** 12-4PM
- » **DEC 27** 12-4PM
- » **JAN 24** 12-4PM

NOSFERATU: THE HORROR CLASSIC

Experience the 1922 masterpiece that defined horror cinema for decades, with a live musical score by acclaimed pianist and composer Tom Roberts. \$20 online or \$25 at the door; \$10 discount for students.

- » **OCT 27** 7PM

PITTSBURGH CLASSIC MOVIE CLUB

Join the Pittsburgh Classic Movie Club for a series celebrating the legendary Robert Mitchum.

- » **OCT 28** 7PM: *CAPE FEAR* (1962)
- » **NOV 25** 7PM: *THE GRASS IS GREENER* (1960)
- » **DEC 23** 7PM: *HOLIDAY AFFAIR* (1949)

THE TERMINATION OF USAID: WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR GLOBAL RELIEF AND LOCAL IMPACT

Join us for an evening of connection, storytelling, and dialogue as we explore what this means for our global community. Hear firsthand from those most affected by USAID, then engage with distinguished panelists as they discuss the humanitarian benefits of USAID, the impacts of its loss, and what happens next.

- » **OCT 29** 6PM

UKULELE STRUM-ALONG

Come strum with us! Join Amber Rozel of Steel City Ukuleles for a free introduction to the simple, versatile

Unless otherwise noted, all Library programs are free to attend. Please let us know if you'll be there - learn more & register at CarnegieCarnegie.org.

instrument known as the ukulele. Learn just a few simple chords, and you'll be able to play hundreds of songs - no prior experience needed, and you don't need to own your own ukulele! Meet other uke-enthusiasts and join our strum-along group!

- » **NOV 6** 6PM
- » **DEC 4** 6PM
- » **JAN 8** 6PM

EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES:

CHASING ME TO MY GRAVE: AN ARTIST'S MEMOIR OF THE JIM CROW SOUTH

Join us for community conversations about diversity & inclusion. This fall, we're reading and discussing *Chasing Me to My Grave: An Artist's Memoir of the Jim Crow South* by Winfred Rembert. Rembert relates his experiences of violence and racism in the 1950s and '60s, his turn to art, and his resilience in the face of extreme tribulation.

- » **NOV 12** AT 7PM

PAPERBACK PLATOON BOOK CLUB

Calling all women veterans and family members: join us to connect with other women through a love of reading! Paperback Platoon book club meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month to discuss selected books.

- » **NOV 13** 6:30PM
- » **DEC 11** 6:30PM
- » **JAN 8** 6:30PM

KNIFE SHARPENING WORKSHOP

Get ready for Thanksgiving with sharp new knife edges! This is a hands-on workshop focused on sharpening and caring for your knives. Come with dull knives - leave with safer, sharper, and more functional edges. \$15 suggested donation.

- » **NOV 17** AT 7PM

HISTORICAL FICTION BOOK GROUP

Join us for our new historical fiction book group. We'll explore different eras of history, share our thoughts and responses, and make new friendships as we share a different historical fiction title each month.

- » **NOV 20** AT 11AM
- » **DEC 18** AT 11AM
- » **JAN 15** AT 11AM

SELAH LABYRINTH MEDITATION WALK

Join members of Carnegie Presbyterian Church's New Hope Worship Center for an open meditation walk through the church's Selah Labyrinth. This event is beginner-friendly, non-denominational, and welcome to all ages; however, guests must maintain a calm and quiet demeanor.

- » **DEC 2** AT 6:30PM

WHAT IS ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS?

Learn the history of A.A. and hear the experiences of members during this special talk. For the past 90 years, A.A. has helped millions of people with alcohol addiction issues.

- » **DEC 8** AT 6PM

 *Library: Kids & Teens*

TEEN TIME: PUMPKIN CARVING

Join us for an afternoon of pumpkin carving and decorating and enjoy snacking on roasted pumpkin seeds while you work! At the end of the event, the pumpkins are yours to take home or display in the library.

- » **OCT 22** 3:30-4:30PM

TEEN HALLOWEEN PARTY

Costumes are encouraged! There will be Halloween snacks, crafts, games, and karaoke.

- » **OCT 30** 5-6:30PM

CARNEGIE CELEBRATES THE SEASON

Santa visits the Library! We look forward to seeing you at our annual event. Enjoy crafts, games, and treats while you wait to get your photo with Santa.

- » **DEC 6** 10AM-1PM



To stay up-to-date on our storytime schedule & for helpful early literacy information, sign up for our Storytime Gazette at bit.ly/StorytimeGazette.

 *Civil War & Espy Post*

CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM

Mark your calendar for our 2026 Symposium, *1861: Small Battles, Big Outcomes*. Tickets are on sale now!

- » **APR 17-18**

2ND SATURDAY CIVIL WAR SERIES

A free series featuring a new theme and Civil War historian each month. *Lectures begin at 1PM in the Lincoln Gallery & Zoom.*

- » **NOV 8 - HON. WILLIAM VODREY** *THE WAR THAT NEVER WAS: GREAT BRITAIN, THE U.S., AND THE TRENT AFFAIR*
- » **JAN 10 - RON KIRKWOOD** *THE GEORGE SPANGLER FARM'S CRITICAL ROLE IN THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG*
- » **FEB 14 - RON CODDINGTON** *AFRICAN AMERICAN FACES OF THE CIVIL WAR*
- » **MAR 7 - KATIE WOLFE** *WOMEN AT WAR: THE HOMEFRONT, THE HOSPITAL, AND THE BATTLEFIELD*

 *Music Hall & Studio*

DETAILS & TICKET INFORMATION:
CARNEGIECARNEGIE.ORG

EMERGING ARTIST SERIES: JONATHAN DIGIULIAN

In partnership with the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra, enjoy a performance by emerging jazz guitarist, Jonathan DiGiulian. Light brunch bites will be served.

- » **OCT 26** AT 3PM

EMERGING ARTIST SERIES: ALEX PEREZ

In partnership with the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra, enjoy a performance by emerging jazz trumpet player, Alex Perez. Light brunch bites will be served.

- » **NOV 2** AT 3PM

SATURDAY SOIRÉES: WICKED WORDPLAY WITH CATHERINE KOLOS

Catherine Kolos brings her latest cabaret, *Wicked Wordplay* — a saucy tribute to sensational lyricists who know how to turn a phrase — to our cozy Studio.

- » **NOV 22** AT 7:30PM

EMERGING ARTIST SERIES: SOOJIN PARK

In partnership with the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra, enjoy a performance by emerging jazz drummer, Soojin Park. Light brunch bites will be served.

- » **DEC 7** AT 3PM

NEVER MISS AN EVENT! Join our email list for monthly updates all year long. Sign up at bit.ly/CarnegieUpdates.

1861: Small Battles, Big Outcomes

-Jon-Erik Gilot, Espy Post Curator

Save the date! Building on a record-setting attendance in 2025, our 8th annual Civil War symposium returns to the Music Hall on April 17-18, 2026. In *1861: Small Battles, Big Outcomes*, the symposium will explore the first year of the Civil War, including the advances and setbacks, trials and tribulations, personalities and decisions that affected how the remainder of the war came to be fought.

Seven dynamic historians have confirmed as speakers, including Rich Condon of the National Park Service; Chris Mackowski, Mark Maloy, Rob Orrison, and Ryan Quint of Emerging Civil War; Melissa A. Winn of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine; and Phil Spaugy of Military Images magazine, with topics unpacking the military, political, and social threads of this pivotal year in our nation's history.

In partnership with Military Images and the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, the Faces of Civil War Nurses photo exhibit will be on-site, bringing to life the remarkable life-sized images and stories of 20 Civil War nurses.



Arsenal Cider — Pittsburgh's Civil War-themed hard cider distillery — will be on-hand for tastings and bottle sales. Tours of the Espy Post will be ongoing, as well as raffles, a Civil War book sale, Civil War artwork for silent auction, and author book signings.

Tickets are available for \$100 until April 6, 2026, or sold out. Seating is limited, and previous years have sold out, so don't wait to reserve your seat. *Please visit our website for additional information or contact Espy Post curator, Jon-Erik Gilot, at gilotj@carnegiecarnegie.org with any questions.*



The **Captain Thomas Espy Post** is free and open to the public for tours each Saturday from 11AM-3PM. If you are interested in touring the post or becoming a docent, please reach out to Jon-Erik Gilot, Espy Post Curator, at 412.276.3456 x19 or gilotj@CarnegieCarnegie.org.

Thank You for Being Our Guest!

We had a great night at *GATSBY: A Jazz Age Celebration* on September 26! With support from hundreds of sponsors, attendees, donors, and volunteers, we raised nearly \$90,000 to support our mission and programs! This is a huge success for the Library & Music Hall, exceeding our overall goal for the event and securing critical funding that will support our work over the next year and beyond.

Thank you to all who participated in our annual benefit. We hope to see you next year as we celebrate our 125th birthday!



The Puffin Keeper & The Skull

For a change, in this newsletter, I would like to recommend two chapter books for elementary age children. The first is *The Puffin Keeper* by Michael Morpurgo in which five year old Allen Williams and his mother are saved from a storm at sea by Benjamin Postlethwaite, the lighthouse keeper. Ben is a humble man of few words, not surprising if one lives alone in a lighthouse. After Allen's schooling on the mainland is complete, he returns to reunite with Ben where they share the adventure of nursing an injured puffin back to health over several months. The now recovered puffin returns again and again to the island, bringing other puffins along.

Eventually, Allen must leave as he is called up to serve in the war. He will return though to what the locals now call Puffin Island and Benjamin Postlethwaite, the Puffin Keeper. As Allen's boat moves closer to the now shuttered lighthouse, he sees the rocky cliffs of the island covered with beautiful black and white puffins with their large



colorful beaks. There is more to discover in this lovely story which was read and enjoyed by my grandsons!

The second book, *The Skull* by Jon Klassen, is the perfect read for Halloween. Yes, there is a skull and a headless skeleton and a young girl named Otilla. If you think you have figured out the ending of the book, well... I won't say. A scary tale? Not really, but a bit spooky with a little humor thrown in just for fun! -*Alice McWreath, Circulation Clerk*



The Payback BY KASHANA CAULEY

Those who spend much time on Bluesky (or Twitter, in ages past) may be familiar with writer Kashana Cauley's wry observations on news and current events. If Cauley's online persona is an appetizer, her second novel *The Payback* offers a full meal. This propulsive and frequently hilarious thriller follows three disillusioned retail workers as they plan a heist to eliminate their student loan debt. The unabashed anger of Jada, our narrator, is tempered by her sardonic observations on



everything from fast fashion to the experience of first-generation college students. Anyone who lives with the specter of student debt looming over them will find this to be a cathartic barn-burner. -*Walker Evans, Library Director*

How to Sell a Haunted House BY GRADY HENDRIX

Grady Hendrix blends horror and humor in *How to Sell a Haunted House*, exploring the messiness of grief and family dynamics — with a side of evil puppets. Estranged siblings Louise and Mark are forced to reunite after their parents' sudden deaths. Not only must they navigate their grief and splintered relationship, but they also have to face the malevolent secrets lurking in their childhood home. This classic haunted house story takes a turn into something darker and stranger, as the house — and its creepy occupants — cling to the past with a death grip.



Hendrix mixes spine-tingling fun with both the absurd and genuine heart, making this novel chilling, oddly touching, and darkly funny. -*Heidi Matthews, Music Hall Director*

Anita de Monte Laughs Last BY XOCHITL GONZALEZ

In keeping with the spooky theme this season, may I suggest Xochitl Gonzalez's novel, *Anita de Monte Laughs Last*. Gonzalez blends magical realism and historical fiction as she weaves together the stories of two women — Anita de Monte, a rising star in the 1980s art world, and Raquel Toro, an art history student at Brown in the late '90s who is studying the works of the renowned Jack Martin, Anita's husband. When Anita dies tragically, her legacy in the art world is buried with the truth of how she died — yet she refuses to be forgotten.



As the story moves between decades, perspectives, and realms, Raquel shifts her focus to Anita as she begins to see parallels between their two lives. Using brilliant dialogue and fantastic imagery, Gonzalez highlights the very real erasure of women — especially women of color — throughout history, the impacts of power and privilege on legacy, and what it means to be remembered. -*Marlee Gallagher, Executive Director*

STAFF PICKS



DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

Strengthening the Heart of a Community

-Joyce DeFrancesco, Communications & Marketing Volunteer

In a Carnegie-Collier Rotary Club meeting 15 years ago, Dana and Susan Craig first heard about the Espy Post in the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall. They were interested and stopped by the Library to check it out.

At the time, they didn't realize they'd be making a connection that would direct their philanthropy to strengthening an institution they see as the heart of the Carnegie community.

“There are a lot of warm vibrations that come from this. What better cause is there than supporting people's education and a safe place they can go?”

Dana, who ran a wealth management group at Merrill Lynch, is also a voracious reader and a lifelong musician — first being “forced” to learn piano at the age of 5 and later playing in several rock bands. Susan, who is a former director of corporate sales for software company Ebix, was especially inspired by the Library's programming and activities for children. They started with a small donation to the Music Hall and then Dana started serving on the Library's board.

Over the years, they've supported various projects, like the new seats in the Music Hall, and have introduced other friends to the Library and Music Hall, inspiring some to become major donors themselves.

“If we are fortunate enough to be able to share some of our good fortune, we should do it,” says Dana. “Every time that we are generous to a nonprofit organization, we seem to have good luck come right back to us.”

The Craigs see the the Library as an irreplaceable addition to the local community, providing educational, technological, and cultural resources to those who may not always be able to access those on their own, and appreciate that their donations make a tangible impact for community members.

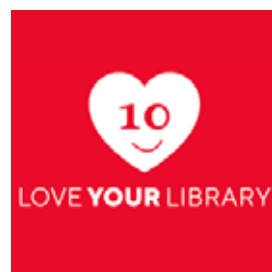
“I love the programs they're doing for children,” says Susan. “They can learn to read, they can have a safe space. It's always a haven for them.”

Now retired, the Presto, Pennsylvania, couple are enjoying traveling, staying physically fit, cooking and, of course, reading at their local library!

Many thanks to Dana & Susan Craig and all of our donors who support our mission and make so much of what we do possible. We are so grateful for you.



INSPIRED BY THE CRAIGS' GENEROSITY? Gifts at any level make a real difference at the Carnegie Carnegie. Contact Executive Director Marlee Gallagher at 412.276.3456, ext. 8, or gallagherm@CarnegieCarnegie.org, to learn more.



A BIG thank you to all who contributed during Love Your Library in September. **With your help, we raised more than \$30,000 toward the match – far surpassing our goal and ensuring we will be able to complete our newspaper digitization project!**

Beyond this project, these funds directly support our mission and will go a long way in advancing our efforts to provide essential resources, educational and cultural opportunities, and unique experiences to our neighbors in Carnegie throughout the rest of the year and beyond.

Community support is everything. Thank You!

VOLUNTEER FEATURE:

Aarna Pandey

-Mikayla Wobrak, Children's Librarian

If you have visited the Library in the after-school hours, you might have seen Aarna Pandey helping out with some of our programs for tweens and teens. Aarna, a 15-year-old high school sophomore, has volunteered at the Library on a weekly basis for much of the last year. While most of her volunteer work has been in the realm of children's and teen programming, she has also represented the Library at various large-scale Library events, including Earth Day, the Carnegie Arts Walk, and this year's Gatsby benefit.

Aarna initially decided to volunteer at the Library after feeling a bit disconnected from her community and seeking new ways that she could get involved. After a year of volunteer work, she notes, what has really meant the most to her about the experience is the people.

“So many different people come here, and when I volunteer, I get to know all of them,” she said fondly. “I have learned a lot about people and about myself, as well. It has been a positive influence on my life.”



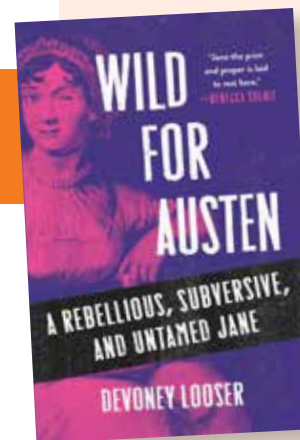
Undoubtedly, she has been a positive influence on the lives of the young people that she works with, as well — she brings a level of compassion, care, and understanding to everything she does that makes her a natural and highly effective peer mentor.

The impact that Aarna has had on the Library goes even beyond these peer-to-peer relationships — she was also instrumental in the creation of our Teen Library Council last year: a dedicated group of teen volunteers who represent the Library within their community and help to shape the Library's programs and services to teens. This fall, the TLC is working on helping to develop a dedicated space for teens in the Library as well as planning our first ever seasonal teen Halloween party.

Even outside of school and volunteering at the Library, Aarna stays busy — she is a voracious reader, a talented writer and artist, and even coaches a badminton club for children! She highly recommends giving comic books a try, especially Spiderman comics, and when I asked her if there was anything else she would like to share with our readers, she said excitedly: “Join the TLC!”

KNOW A TEEN WHO WANTS TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON THEIR COMMUNITY LIKE AARNA? Email us at acfreeteenlibrarycouncil@gmail.com to join. The TLC meets the third Saturday of each month.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



WILD FOR AUSTEN: This year marks the 250th anniversary of the great Jane Austen's birth, and we knew we wanted to mark the occasion. Austen's enduring image in the popular imagination is that of a prim and sheltered lady – but does that really tell the whole story? Guest author Devoney Looser visited us to share her new book *Wild for Austen: A Rebellious, Subversive, and Untamed Jane*, a delightful and hilarious read that explores Jane's “wilder” side. If you missed this great talk, don't miss the book!

CONSCIENCE & COERCION: This exhibit, based on original archival research by Dr. David Rosenberg, drew curious visitors during its four-week

run in the Lincoln Gallery. Delving into the earliest days of the Protestant Reformation, Dr. Rosenberg demonstrates the theological conscience of French Protestants as powerful political and religious groups attempted to coerce them into recanting their faith. Anchoring the exhibit were a collection of 108 enlarged and framed signatures of these early Protestants: marks made with their own hands centuries ago, now a way of honoring and acknowledging their existence and experiences. *More info is at protestantsofamiens.com.*



MANY, MANY THANKS

The following gifts were received between March 1, 2025-September 30, 2025. Thank you to all of our donors who support the Carnegie Carnegie and truly make our work possible. *We are so grateful for you!*

Please note: If any of the information presented here is incorrect or if your information is missing for the time period listed above, please contact Marlee Gallagher, Executive Director, at gallagherm@CarnegieCarnegie.org or call 412.276.3456 x8.

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